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Message Text

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14
ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04

H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-06 ACDA-07 IO-13 EB-07 TRSE-00 OMB-01 /105 W
---------- 093836
R 100859Z JUL 76
FM AMEMBASSY LAGOS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5826
INFO AMEMBASSY ACCRA
AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA
AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MAPUTO
AMEMBASSY NAIROBI
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

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E. O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PFOR, PINS, MPOL, NI, UG, IS, US
SUBJ: GARBA ON LESSONS OF ENTEBBE

REF : LAGOS 7148

SUMMARY: NIGERIAN EXTAFF COMMISSIONER GARBA, DISCUSSING ENTEBBE RAID WITH NEWSMEN ON ARRIVAL FROM OAU SUMMIT, HAS CALLED ON AFRICAN GOVERNMENTS TO INCREASE THEIR VIGILANCE AND IMPROVE THEIR SECURITY PRECAUTIONS AGAINST EXTERNAL ATTACK. ALTHOUGH QUESTION OF PRESIDENT FORD'S CONGRATULATORY MESSAGE WAS RAISED, GARBA AVOIDED BELABORING USG FOR "SUPPORT OF ISRAEL," SAYING THAT US AND NIGERIA EACH HAVE RIGHT TO EXPRESS SOLIDARITY WITH WHOMEVER THEY PLEASE. TURNING TO RHODESIAN MATTERS, GARBA CONDEMNED BOTH MUSOREWA AND NKOMO FOR THEIR FEUDING. END SUMMARY.

1. NIGERIAN EXTERNAL AFFAIRS COMMISSIONER GARBA, JUST BACK
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FROM OAU SUMMIT, TOLD AIRPORT REPORTERS JULY 8 THAT AFRICAN

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GOVERNMENTS MUST LEARN FROM ISRAELI ATTACK ON UGANDA AND
INCREASE SECURITY AND VIGILANCE WITHOUT DELAY. GARBA, WHOSE
CALLS FOR VIGILANCE HAVE MADE HEADLINES MORE THAN ONCE (SEE
LAGOS 1773 OF FEB. 11 -- TWO DAYS BEFORE ABORTIVE COUP ATTEMPT),
SAID, QTE. TODAY IT IS ENTEBBE; TOMORROW IT COULD BE LAGOS. UNQTE.

2. IN IMPLIED REPROACH TO IDI AMIN, GARBA SAID THAT ENTEBBE
ATTACK SHOULD BE LESSON TO THOSE AFRICAN COUNTRIES WHICH CLAIM
THAT THEIR DEFENSE SYSTEMS ARE IMPREGNABLE, AND WHICH THREATEN
TO QTE. MARCH ON CAPE TOWN AND THINGS LIKE THAT. UNQTE. HE
CONCLUDED THAT CONTINENTAL DEFENSE SYSTEM WAS OBVIOUS SOLUTION TO
VULNERABILITY OF AFRICAN COUNTRIES TO SURPRISE ATTACK, BUT OAU
WOULD FACE ENORMOUS DIFFICULTIES IN SETTING UP SUCH A SYSTEM.

3. ASKED ABOUT PRESIDENT FORD'S CONGRATULATORY MESSAGE TO
RABIN, GARBA SAID QTE. IF FORD THINKS ISRAEL WAS RIGHT IN DOING
WHAT SHE DID, HE HAS EVERY RIGHT TO SEND A CONGRATULATORY
MESSAGE JUST AS WE HAVE EVERY RIGHT TO CONDEMN THE AGGRESSION
AND SEND A MESSAGE OF SOLIDARITY TO PRESIDENT AMIN. UNQTE.

4. TURNING TO RHODESIAN SITUATION, GARBA SAID IT WAS REGRET-
ABLE THAT SPLIT IN ANC LEADERSHIP WAS AFFECTING MORALE OF
FREEDOM FIGHTERS. HE CONDEMNED NKOMO AND MUZOREWA FOR CLAIMING
THERE WAS NO DISPUTE BETWEEN THEM WHEN IN FACT THERE WAS. FOR
ITS PART NIGERIA WAS ONLY INTERESTED IN RHODESIAN INDEPENDENCE,
NOT IN WHO EVENTUALLY RULED THAT COUNTRY. NIGERIAN FUNDS FOR THE
RHODESIAN LIBERATION MOVEMENT WERE THEREFORE SENT TO NEITHER
OF THE FACTIONS BUT TO MOZAMBIQUE QTE. BECAUSE SHE IS IN
A BETTER POSITION TO KNOW WHO IS ACTUALLY INVOLVED IN THE
STRUGGLE. UNQTE.

5. COMMENT: FMG HAS THUS FAR NOT MADE BIG ISSUE OF ISRAELI
RAID. ALTHOUGH MEDIA REACTION HAS BEEN CRITICAL, IT HAS LACKED
THE STEAM OF RECENT ANTI-US CAMPAIGNS. GARBA, BY
SAYING THAT US AND NIGERIA EACH HAVE RIGHT TO EXPRESS SOLI-
DARITY WITH WHOMEVER THEY PLEASE, PASSED UP EASY CHANCE TO
LAMBAST US. THIS IS IN KEEPING WITH HIS DESIRE, RECENTLY
EXPRESSED TO CHARGE AND WHITE HOUSE FELLOWS (REFTEL), TO
AVOID CONFRONTATION WITH USG. SIMULTANEOUSLY, HOWEVER, ENTEBBE
INCIDENT SEEMS CERTAIN TO REINFORCE PARANOIA OF FMG (FORTHRIGHTLY
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REVEALED BY GARBA IN REFTEL INTERVIEW) ABOUT "DESTABILIZATION"
AND OTHER MACHINATIONS OF AFRICA'S "DETRACTORS."
CROSBY

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NNN

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